

September 16, 2013

Dear Bob,

Enclosed please find the letter from Father Carroll which I mentioned to you. He enjoyed words and I enjoyed challenging him.

I particularly like the Staff member's description of Father Carroll which is included in the letter. "Tycoon of Typhlology, Master of Mobility, Professor of Periptology and Champion of Cecutiency."

I am very pleased that I have the opportunity to share this letter with others.

Sincerely,



Ralph L. Peabody

BOSTON'S CATHOLIC GUILD FOR ALL THE BLIND

770 CENTRE STREET/NEWTON 58/MASSACHUSETTS
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October 17, 1964

NATIONAL SERVICES

AMERICAN CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLINDNESS AND REHABILITATION

A national research center working directly on medical, psychological, sociological, technological and other problems involved in blindness and in the rehabilitation of blind persons.

ST. PAUL'S REHABILITATION CENTER

Internationally renowned rehabilitation center specifically for newly blinded adults.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

St. Paul's conducts training seminars for professional personnel in several fields. It also serves as the technical resource for Boston College's Peripatology Program.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

LISTEN

A unique newspaper sent to all blind persons in Massachusetts, and to key people in the local and national community to educate them to the real needs of blind persons. Circulation, 30,000.

STATE SERVICES

COMMUNITY MOBILITY PROGRAM

Professional staff teaches blind persons best use of remaining senses and scientific use of cane in travel.

PUBLIC SCHOOL MOBILITY PROGRAM

Blind children attending regular schools in their communities are given sensory training by specially trained Guild instructors to enable them to orient themselves to their environment, and to travel independently.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Purchases and distributes, at cost, devices designed for use by blind persons.

CASEWORK AND COUNSELING

Casework and counseling services for newly and congenitally blind children, adults and aged persons, and members of their families.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Organized at the request of Greater Boston agencies to coordinate volunteer services, particularly for blind students. A professional staff supervises more than 400 volunteers in their activities as readers, guides and drivers.

ST. RAPHAEL'S HALL

A home for elderly blind women.

Mr. Ralph L. Peabody
University of Pittsburgh
School of Education
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Dear Mr. Peabody:

I first came across the word cecutiency in the Milwaukee Public Library while I was preparing a talk for the Blinded Veterans on the subject of partial vision.

This year when we were sending out the agenda to a group of ophthalmologists who were to meet here for a workshop on low vision we purposely used the term without giving any explanation of it -- just so that we could enjoy the reaction of the ophthalmologists. We were having a little fun with it, and the reactions were interesting. Some of the doctors asked about it, one or two waited to discover what it was without letting anybody realize they did not know and most reported that they had either looked it up directly or through their secretaries. One had put in a phone call to the medical library at his university.

At this stage we have simply been using "cecutiency" as a broad term to describe areas of low vision. We purposely have not tried to define it in terms of acuity or field and have shied away from anything to do with prognosis. Personally I would not like to see the term become too widely used at this stage, we know we are in no position to define it. It has on the other hand proved handy in that all the existing terminology is pretty useless for communication in the field. Each person using a term like "partial vision" apparently has definite views on what he means by the word. To some it means degree of vision

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BOSTON'S CATHOLIC GUILD FOR ALL THE BLIND

Mr. Ralph L. Peabody

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between light perception and 5/200ths. To others it goes up to 20/200ths. Still others begin at 5/200ths or 20/200ths, some of them going as high as 20/70ths for an outside limit.

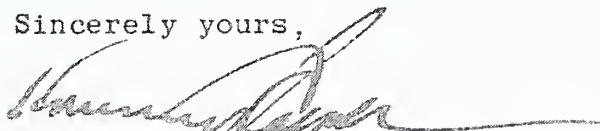
If cecutiency gets abused in the same way then we will have to find another large dictionary to see if there isn't another word to define it or we will just come up with a new one.

Yesterday a member of our staff made a kidding report about me which you might enjoy; Tycoon of Typhology, Master of Mobility, Professor of Peripatology and Champion of Cecutiency.

I don't have a copy of the talk I gave at Milwaukee, but you might be interested in a copy of the survey I did at Cleveland which includes a brief summary of terms used in the field. I am sending one along to you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Reverend Thomas J. Carroll
Executive Director

TJC:AB

